The All New

en femme™

Magazine

#23

SHOPPING ADVICE - MAGGIE MORGAN

WHAT MEN LIKE ABOUT TVs & TSs - SARAH LUIZ

TRANSVESTISM RE-EXAMINED - VERN BULLOUGH, PH.D.

ALISON LAING

ROBERTA DEE

DANIEL GRAHAM

WENDI SEABREEZE

From the Publisher's Pen

For once I was so happy to be wrong about a personal opinion. The war was not as long or as bloody as I feared it might be. Thank Goddess for small favors. But, I still feel we must be sensitive to our returning sisters. Though short, the war was still a most violent environment and some will be deeply affected.

Several of you wrote to me after my last editorial and although we don't have a regular "Letters" column, I'd like to share some of the comments with you.

Dear JoAnn,
I seldom write, however, I must thank you for that most moving missive in issue #22 regarding the undeclared war. I think for the first time in my life I realize how strong is our connection in every facet of life and death.
Thank you for *enFemme*. It's the best therapy in the world (for me) and you are my favorite therapist.
We need a female Congress.
Much love,
M.G.
Media, Pa.

Dear JoAnn,
I received *enFemme* #22 today. Your deep concern and thoughtful description of that concern, I'm certain, will touch all of your readers. Your predictions are, unfortunately, being borne out. We all join you in praying that casualties will be minimal.
Thank you for expressing yourself so meaningfully.
Sincerely,
Azure
St. Paul, Minn.

Then there was this letter received late February —

Dear JoAnn,
Since the 17th of January, I have become convinced that this will be my last hurrah as a hard core male. This is especially true after seeing how the Saudi's treat their women... I don't know where I'll go from here. I may become a feminist... Don't worry about me. So far, all the SCUD missiles are flying harmlessly overhead... The worst part of this whole assignment is the uniform. I mean brown and tan are just not my colors. When I do come back, I am going to let my hair down, take some time off and travel some. Don't be surprised if one morning you find me on your door step.
Sincerely
Nancy Cole (CAF)
Somewhere in Saudi Arabia, 70 kilometers south of the Iraqi border

Back on the home front, our next issue will be a special commemorative celebrating this magazine's fourth anniversary. We're going to 36 pages for that issue and expect to keep that page count over the coming year. Look for expanded coverage of events, product reviews, guest articles and a special beauty column by Jim Bridges along with the regulars.

Write and let me know how you feel about the new *enFemme*. *Hugs, JoAnn*

en Femme

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My Wonderful World

Wendi Seabreeze

Hey girl! Did you know old man winter is also a TV or TS/TG/CD/CG/GT/MS/ECT or at least reads En Femme?

Why you ask?

Well dear, since the last issue where I had written about the disadvantages of living in California (not being able to wear my fur-collared coat, winter boots and earmuffs without looking out of place) things have changed. Old man winter went and made a liar out of me.

Brrrrr! I finally had to retrieve my heavy winter clothes from the back of my walk-in closet, because for over a week the temperature's been in the teens. I can understand that for many of you, temperatures in the teens are no big deal; in fact, I have even lived in states where twenty degrees is considered warm. However, once again I am spoiled by the sunny weather of this golden state, so when it gets cold we freak out.

Yet it was fun and is fun to wear a mini-skirt under a full length coat that drops to my calves. And slipping my nyloned foot into a fur-lined boot, adds a distinct delight to getting dressed up in your favorite outfit, that we California queens don't normally experience ...so out into the cold I went with a few sorority sisters looking cute in my pink earmuffs, and enjoyed the ever so short winter, the cold breeze up between my legs, the icicles and the beauty of the snow capped surrounding mountains.

Now as I write the mercury has risen back up into the sixties. And my facial skin has fully recovered from the perils of the cold arctic air. The warm rays of the sun shimmers through my opened window, and I'm ready to continue writing this never ending epic of my lives.

Getting Married...

As you know by now, "Rod" has been Valerie and Janet, and is now Vicky during this stage of our life. But this doesn't mean that Valerie and Janet no longer exist. The three female personalities of Rod just have different functions, and surface at that appropriate moment. Although Rod is always the one who is least informed about current events: like where did all the female stuff come from; how did he get from one place to another; and why are a few delicate parts of his body sore.

In the last issue you read how Vicky had met "Susie" who was driving back to Cleveland in her recreation vehicle. This adventure for Vicky was short-lived because Janet surfaced and made a bee-line trip back to Miami. Well at least she tried. Something happened along the way that gave Rod full control of his consciousness. The first thing he did was get some male clothes. He hung out at a city park in Orlando, Florida, and by chance became a male prostitute for vacationing women of all ages, and gay men. This allowed Rod to earn enough money to rent a room and get off the streets. Soon he started losing time again, and found makeup in his drawers and women's dresses hanging in his closet. He knew his other personalities were active, and of course didn't

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Wendi Seabreeze; P. O. Box 1423; San Jose, CA 95109

know their names, but he knew he had a real problem. Sometimes when he was out earning a few dollars letting men do things to him, he would lose consciousness, and wake up the next morning in lingerie with an older man. It was the sex-pot Janet, who would take over Rod and go farther into sexual pleasures than he would. Thank God it was before the advent of the HIV virus.

Valerie would come out at other times in Rod's room and play with her hair, sitting alone and afraid on the floor in a corner. Vicky would come out and pray to her secret goddess and burn some incense and candles. They constantly fought for control, which became complex and confusing voices in Rod's head. This drove him to drugs and alcohol. These addictions did suppress all the personality changes that finally allowed Rod to live a life of his own without the girls interfering all the time. Because of this Rod had the opportunity to meet a tall, slender chick named Karen. On the first night they met, Karen took Rod home to a huge apartment where they made love in her bedroom. The next morning when Rod awoke, he could smell bacon and eggs, and heard other people moving around in the apartment.

"Rodney!" An unfamiliar women's voice called out to him from down the hall. "Come and eat some breakfast!"

When he put his clothes on and went out into the dining room, he was shocked to see a whole family there at the breakfast table. There were two teenaged girls, their mother and father, and Karen in the kitchen. A place was set at the table for Rod, so he sat down and ate breakfast while he exchanged some small talk about himself to Karen's parents. It was a very loving and understanding family who invited Rod to live with them. Which he did, sleeping with Karen in her room every night. Her father hired Rod and put him to work in his own air-conditioning business.

What else could Rod ask for? ...A Baby? Yes, Karen had gotten pregnant, so Rod decided to marry her. He was still without a car so they rode a bus to downtown Orlando and got married by a county official. They borrowed Karen's father's car and had a one-night honeymoon at a Daytona Beach motel. Being back in Daytona completed a circle of events in Rod's strange life.

Later they moved into their own apartment where Rod worked as a lawn maintenance foreman at the 400 unit complex. The girl personalities were upset by this because when Rod lived with Karen's parents and younger sisters, they would come out whenever they were alone (one at a time), and sneak into the young girl's bedroom and get dressed up in their clothes. Especially Valerie, because they were about the same mental age. Janet would mess around with Karen's and Karen's mother's wardrobe. Vicky would spend her conscious time exploring the family library.

When Karen was in the hospital for a week after giving birth to their child, Janet would come out in the evenings when Rod was home and get dressed up in Karen's clothes. She would walk around the apartment complex looking for a 'trick' and hang out at the McDonald's next to the complex and search for a compatible man. She had apparently learned that most straight men were trouble. That is because Janet was such a sexy tease, that she had to be convinced before going to bed with a man that he wouldn't be upset by her having the sexual organs of a man. It was different with Valerie because she was still sweet and pure, shy and innocent. Of course Vicky was the witch attempting to get complete control of Rod, which she later did!

So the baby was born and Rod still managed to keep his other personalities a secret from his wife. Almost a year later, Karen was off for the evening with the child visiting her parents. Rod had stayed home to work on an art project. But while he was drawing he then dissociated into Janet, who without wasting a second got dressed in Karen's favorite outfit. And I mean she got dressed to kill, so they say. Remember this is in 1973 where the mini-skirt with a matching vest covered with cute crystal rhinestones and big golden buttons. The blouse was body hugging in ivory white lace that snapped together under the crotch. Of course Janet wore the side zippered white boots and had swung a matching purse proudly from her shoulder.

Because Rod still had his long blond hippie hair, Janet just teased it up a bit, threw on some jewelry, dashed on some makeup and out the front door she went. It wasn't too long before she got whistles from the passing motorists, and honks from their cars. As brave as Janet was, she decided to get back to Miami, so began to hitchhike. She quickly got a ride from a drunk man who only wanted to screw her. Sensing this, Janet got away and returned to the apartment because it was really too late in the night to safely hitch-

continued on page 25

Electra St. Jill
Living the Legends

Daniel M. T. Graham

Living the Legends is a fun documentary on the work of Electra St. John (Jim Buff) at work in various nightclubs and even poolside. Unlike most videos that are about female impersonator shows where the camera is on once and that's it, this video has variations on the same act by Buff. Much time has been put into the initial gathering of footage, editing, and computer graphics.

Buff opens the tape with his Bette Midler impersonation from the film The Rose. The lighting for this number is very scanty and rather mediocre and this is the effect that is desired as it reflects the end of the character's career that he is portraying. He does a little patter in the opening of this section and goes right into "When a Man Loves a Woman." The only annoying thing about this part of the video is that people from the audience are wandering onto the stage and putting money into Mr. Buff's top. This detracts from the song that has a power to it that is intensified by the character of Rose and the gin bottle that is on stage. This song is done in one take and is very smooth running even with the annoying audience members who appear to have been dumped from a shoe box onto the stage.

Next up is Judy Garland and Buff runs the full gamut of Ms. Garland's career as a singer. He appears on stage in an evening gown, pants, and that little jacket number that Garland popularized. Rather than focusing on one song this is a montage of images and songs that Buff has performed during a number of shows.

The all time favorite, or should I say standby of every female impersonator is, yes, Marilyn Monroe. Part of this is filmed poolside and later in a club. "Diamonds Are a Girl's Best Friend" is done as well as "My Heart Belongs to Daddy." At poolside he sings "Happy Birthday to You" to a scantily clad man and I wonder if Marilyn would have done this? We shall never know.

Lucille Ball is played in the skit where she gets drunk on a health medicine. Buff is very convincing as Ms. Ball and has obviously done his homework on this routine as it stays true to the original version that was one for television.

The most outstanding aspect of this video is the Ann Margaret section. After she was out of the movies she played Vegas and was in on the disco craze. Electra is able to capture the flamboyant movements of Ms. Margaret. He moves across the stage to "I Can't Give You Anything But Love" with all the grace and energy that Margaret had.

Bette Midler is brought back with her camp songs and outlandish costumes. 'Camp' is the key word for this character.

The closing number is at the dressing table where Buff is applying makeup and becoming Bette Midler, Judy Garland, Marilyn Monroe, Lucille Ball, and then himself again. While this is going on the characters are singing "You Got to Have Friends."

Electra St. John—Living the Legends is a fun look at one very talented female impersonator's work. This is a great collection of footage that gives you the feeling that you are there watching the performance rather than sitting at home watching a tape. The cameras are stationed in three different locations and there is none of that zoom in and out like so many other far-less professional tapes have to do in order to get a close up. Stability of the camera is a blessing for this genre of film-making.

Living the Legends can be ordered from CCC Video Productions, 266 Rose Street, Freeport, New York 11520. The cost is $45. *EF*

"...Electra's Lucille Ball piece is worth the price of of the tape alone-a four gayola rating..." Sardi

"...I never expected so many characters under one wig..."

"...Electra is a mastermind who compliments/complements all he impersonates..."

"..Electraflying, electrodes, electraordinary even makes it in Russia.."

Jim Buff is Electra St. Jill

Electra

Cover/Back Photos by Wil Weissman

Cover Design by Jim Buff

Back Design by Benay Phillips

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Color/VHS

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LIVING the Legends

Electra St. Jill ©

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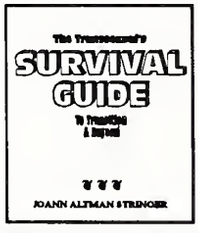

The Transsexual's Survival Guide: JoAnn Altman Stringer is a post-op transsexual woman, a wife, a step-mother, and a working professional. Personal and practical, the Guide is indispensable for pre-op transsexuals just beginning transition. All the things your therapist may not tell you. M-t-F or F-t-M, both will benefit.

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SHOP 'TIL YOU ETC...

Maggie Morgan

Oh, no! Not another column about shopping. Yes, but with a slight difference. I want to talk to you about a moment every tran inevitably faces: that time when poring over catalogs is no longer enough, and nothing will do than to buy femme things (echo chamber for this, please)... in person!

I know, the idea of actually going into a store to buy your undies or nighties scares you into seizure. Everybody's going to look at you strangely if you go as a male. If you're dressed, you're sure to be read. Sweat rolls down your face at the very thought of taking your frilly prizes to the register. Well, Aunt Maggie's here to say, get hip! The problem is you.

When I was younger and had my first savings account, I used to dread going to the bank to withdraw money. I was convinced that the teller would look at my balance, look at me, and launch into a withering lecture about how I wasn't being a very responsible young person. Okay that's an extreme case, but the principle is exactly the same. You've already assumed rejection before you put your daintily foot in the door. With that kind of attitude you're sure to make your worst fears into reality. FACT: most stores don't give a damn if you're 8-foot-2, green, and want to buy explosive suppositories. If you've got the money to spend, you're in, provided that you don't have the nervous, clammy look of someone planning to rob the joint. That's what gets salespeople antsy, not who you are or what you're buying. That said, let's go on to Morgan's Manual for Sure Shopping:

• Go to the biggest store you can. Bigger stores have bigger selections, and if you're like most of us, you want to do some browsing. Besides if you've still got jitters, it's much easier to be anonymous in a big store. Small shops are great too, but unless you know they're tran-friendly or you're confident enough to ask for help, skip 'em.

• Know your size. I can't emphasize this strongly enough. You already know what a pain it is when you guess wrong on something you buy through the mail. So, measure yourself from top to toe, and keep a little file card in your wallet or purse. After all these years, and in spite of the fact that I now live full-time, I still do. For you, it'll prevent having to ask potentially embarrassing questions of the help. Besides, you don't have the luxury of being able to try things on. I shop at a corset shop in Manhattan whose staff knows me well enough to let me use the fitting room, but that's a very rare exception.

If you are asked whether the item is for your wife or girlfriend, just say "yes" unless you've reached the point where you can stand tall and say, "No, it's for me."

• When you get to the register, shut up. If you've conquered your fears enough to get here, the chances are that you'll start to feel the exhilaration of success and want to make all kinds of small talk. Resist! Not only is this the last place where you can turn that nightmare into reality, but nervous chatter is part of the profile of the shoplifter. So why be half-safe? Pay your money and say nothing, get your package and split.

Now that wasn't hard, was it? You've shopped for your femme self, you got something that you really wanted, and the world is still in one piece. What's more, you've cemented in the keystone to all self-confidence, the feeling that you belong in that store, shopping for yourself. With that feeling of belonging, there's no telling how wonderful your life can be.

Go get 'em, girl!

Love, Maggie *EF*

Service & Product Reviews

JoAnn Roberts

This issue we look at an unusual makeover service from, where else, California.

Service: Makeover By Mail
Source: Fe-Mail Fantasies
PO Box 7701
Laguna Nigel, CA 92607
Cost: $59.95 plus $5.00 handling
Rating: A+, a great value for the money.

Hopefully you've noticed the ads for Fe-Mail Fantasies in the past several issues of the magazine. Maybe you're as curious as I was about exactly how this service works, so I thought I'd find out more about it to share with our readers.

The concept of a makeover by mail is not new. Rex, the world renowned makeup magician from New York, began offering a similar service in 1986, but this is a first for our community. So, how exactly do you get a makeover by mail and what precisely do you get for your $65?

After contacting Fe-Mail Fantasies (FF), I received a package containing a cover letter, an 18 page questionnaire, swatches of gold and silver foil, and a self-addressed return envelope. The questionnaire is divided into several sections which require you to answer questions about yourself. The General Info section asks about height, weight and the like. A few of the questions require subjective answers and its best to err on the side of honesty here, like "Do you think you are passable now?" Almost everyone does and almost everyone isn't.

Next we have the Makeup section which asks about eye color, skin color, and other similar characteristics. This section will help you determine the shape of your face which is so important in designing the rest of your makeup.

On to the Hair section which ask about natural hair color (mine is nude - I don't have much) and wig style information. Next, Your Colors is probably the most difficult part of the examination. You are told how to decide if you're warm toned or cool toned. This is where the foils are used. From here you go on to an even finer description of your skin tone by trying to match your skin to a color swatch provided with the questionnaire. There are nine different shades on the swatch, so you should be able to come to a close match.

The next section deals with fashion and personal style. We don't always pick a style that is most flattering to our shape and this section is meant to help correct that flaw. Once again, you are asked to answer many questions but also you are asked to choose which of several pre-designed outfits you'd wear to three different types of occasions. This is a very clever way of getting at your personal style

Finally, we come to the really difficult part - the photos. All the answers to all the questions in the world are not going to do any good without your photos. Four photos are needed, all color. Photo 1 is a head and shoulders shot without makeup and hair pulled away from the face (see I don't have to do that). This allows FF to asses your face shape, symmetry and any facial flaws. Photo 2 is a head and shoulders shot with makeup and favorite hair. This lets FF see what you're doing now with your makeup and hair. Photo 3 is a full length shot in shirt and slacks or shirt and shorts so they can assess your body shape. (Hint - it will be even better if you take a photo in a leotard and tights, especially in a neutral color like beige.) And,

photo 4 is a full length picture of you in your favorite outfit so they can assess your current fashion style.

Mail your completed questionnaire and your FF information package will be returned to you within two weeks, tops. When mine arrived, I found a personalized folder with a personal letter from Jerri, an audio tape from Frankie, a set of color swatches, 34 pages of personalized advice on makeup, hairstyles and fashions.

The makeover package included a large drawing representative of my face shape (Jerri confirmed it is oval — Nyah,nyah) which had blush, some foundation and lipstick colors applied, a very nice touch. The colors and numbers on the charts and in the text refer to the makeup that FF sells and a catalog is included. This was followed by an "Eye Design" chart that used the same feature of applying color so that you can see the final result. The only complaint I had here was reading the hand writing. I'd prefer hand printed or typed text to cursive writing.

What follows now is several pages of general makeup application instructions which are pretty good. There is even instructions for an "instant face lift." I'm very familiar with this technique but an illustration would have been helpful.

The next section deals with body assessment. According to FF my Vertical Proportion is long-legged with a short torso. Although I'm short for a male (5' 6" is 40th percentile), I am tall for a female (80th percentile). So I guess that fits and I do seem to look better with a hem just above my knee. My Horizontal Proportion is perfect says FF so I don't need large breast forms or hip pads. My own experience has taught me that so they were right on the mark.

Based on my body proportions and style selections FF included several pages from fashion catalogs to illustrate the styles that would look best on me. I had to laugh as I turned the page and saw that FF had recommended a leather suit with an asymmetrical closure that I had ordered myself just the week before. Score another direct hit for FF.

The hair section discussed appropriate colors and styles including several pages of photos showing hair styles that compliment my face shape. Again, FF picked styles that I have learned by experience are best for me.

I had thought the section on makeup glossed over covering the beard, but there was a separate sheet in the back that discussed several ways to neutralize beard shadow. I can't believe FF even mentions using Clown White, but, to their credit, they include the Milk of Magnesia and lipstick tricks. Try it. Whatever works, use it.

The final pages dealt with body hair. No great revelations here, just sound advice.

The back pocket contained a catalog of FF's cosmetics with a price list. A typical example is foundation for $6.50 and pressed blush for $5.00. These are very economic prices, considering I have paid over $20 for blush by Marcella Borghese. Fe-Mail Fantasies offers a package (#1) that includes all the basics from their makeup analysis, plus 3 brushes (you'll need more), 8 sponge wedges for foundation application, 10 sponge applicators for eyeshadow, and a roll of surgical tape for eyebrow/facelifts for $78.75. Or, you can get the makeup without the tools (package #2) for $44. This is a great deal if you have no idea where to get what you need. Of course, they have the video I reviewed last issue. Get a makeover by mail or order the packages and get the video for $19.95 plus $5.00 shipping and handling.

Overall, you get great value for your money. I recommend this service to anyone who has no idea where to start with makeup and fashion or if you live in the middle of Podunk County and have no easy access to a makeover service. There are many personal makeover services in this community but Fe-Mail Fantasies is unique.

Now let's look at a popular mail order catalog.

Service: Mail Order Lingerie and Daywear
Source: Night 'n Day Intimates
89 Maple Ave.
Hanover, PA 17333
Cost: Moderately Priced Clothing
Rating: F, Poor quality and service

For years I have drooled over the sexy lingerie and hot, sexy dresses in the Night 'n Day Intimates catalog. Night 'n Day is part of the Hanover mail order group. Once you get on the Hanover mailing list, you'll receive every catalog they print. But, Night 'n Day is undoubtedly their best.

Unfortunately, their goods don't match the quality of their catalog. I have ordered several items from here in the last year and every single piece has been sent back for poor quality. Here is my most recent experience.

continued on page 29

Would you love to be beautiful?

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How did you hear about us? ☐ Magazine ☐ Newspaper ☐ Meeting ☐ Other _____

What Men Really Think About TVs & TSs

Sarah Luiz

A short time ago I decided to do an informal study on what men thought about transvestites and transsexuals. Are we just a different kind of toy to these men because they were bored? Or are we really the answer to a man's needs? I realized I was going to meet many types of men, and the ending results were astonishing!

The range of men that are in fact interested in TV's and TS's is almost as astonishing as the results. These men range from very, very wealthy to very poor, ugly to Greek gods, slobs to neatniks, fat to skinny, small genitals to horse sized, the boy next door, or maybe a business man, a hard bodied construction worker, or a social worker, the list could go on for days. But remember, for every different TV or TS, there is an admirer.

What do men enjoy doing with a TV or TS on a date? Some like to do what they usually do with other girls they date: movies, dinner, maybe dancing. There are the romantic guys that have flair—a little dinner set for two, or maybe having dinner on the floor near an open fire, like a little picnic. Then there are the ones that just eat and run. Two can eat for the price of one! Wham, bam, thank you who ever you are. What did you say your name was? Then there are the Creators, the ones who like to play house and dolls, with you as the doll! Maybe because they never had a chance to play with dolls while growing up, forced to play with trucks. Whatever the reason these guys want to dress you up, make you over and then get wild. Now this is okay if they want to foot the bill, if you get my meaning.

What do men like physically about TV's and TS's? Well, the answer is obvious, and many felt that sex was better than with real women! They felt that a major reason was the fact that TV's are still men and TS's used to be men allowing them to know what a male orgasm feels like! This allows TV's and TS's to please their partner better than a woman.

How do men react when out on a date and someone 'reads' their date? I was happy to find that most of the men had backbone, and would stand up for their date. Not that some of their dates couldn't stand up for their man. There were a few that only did this behind closed doors. That's okay, though, as long as both parties agree.

And saving the best for last—What did men like most about TV's and TS's? The effort they put into being as beautiful as they are! Their hair is always taken care of, makeup is always just right, different looks on a daily basis, and most of all, they go above and beyond to please their man!

I feel that the TV and TS world has come a long way in a short time. Some of the outside pressures have gone away. The message is getting out by TV's and TS's appearing on talk shows, articles in magazines and basically standing up for their rights.

I have to applaud all human beings that follow their hearts and go to the extremes that TV's and TS's go to for a little taste of happiness and most of all peace!

In closing, I would like to say that you are all okay in my book! Make it happen like only you can!

If anyone would like to write with questions or topics for future columns, I'll try to answer them here. And, if you are interested in a Sarah Luiz Catalog on merchandise for sale (video, audio tape, posters, t-shirts, special items from Sarah's boutique) or the Sarah Luiz Fan Club, send $5.00 to John Kavanaugh, P.O. Box 147, Northwood, NH 03261. *EF*

SATURDAY: A PERSONAL STORY

Karen Gaston

Standing in front of a store window staring at the beautiful blue dress wondering if it would match my navy heels wouldn't seem that unusual for most women. But I am a man, a crossdresser who spends a great deal of my spare time as a woman. Trying to muster up enough courage to go in to the dress shop I stopped and examined how I looked. It was a cold night and my earrings felt cold against my earlobes but my wig seemed to keep my head as warm as necessary. I could faintly see my reflection in the store window, the ¾ length coat barely covering my short black skirt. I could see the outline of nylon covered legs that ended at my three inch heels. No one would think this was anyone but who I appeared to be; a middle-aged woman out doing some shopping. I decided against going in, knowing that my voice would probably give me away.

I slowly left knowing that if I still wanted the dress I would have to return as my male persona pretending I was buying the dress for a lady friend and would act as if I didn't know what I was buying.

It was now approaching 10 PM. I decided that it wasn't safe for a woman to be out alone, so I headed home as quickly as my three inch heels would allow. I started looking forward to Saturday, a day I would be spending entirely as Karen.

I left work Friday afternoon anticipating what I hoped would be a day completely surrounded by feminine things. As I drove home I couldn't help but smile at the attractive lady in the car beside me, who like I, was stuck in typical Friday afternoon traffic. As she retouched her lips I wondered if she liked the taste of lipstick as much as I, if she enjoyed the tightness of her bra as much as I, if she liked the feel of... Finally, the traffic started to move and in no time I was home.

As I lowered my male body into my perfumed bubble bath, my transformation had begun. After luxuriating for what seemed like hours, I shaved every speck of hair other than my head. As I patted myself dry I had an immediate reaction to my smooth hairless body and I wondered how I would react to the rest of my dressing that would continue in the morning. As I slipped my negligee over my head, I shivered as it fell to its ultimate destination. My silicone breast inserts held tightly by my full support bra gave me the female shape I required to get a full nights sleep.

Upon wakening the sun was streaming in through my vertical blinds. It took me a few seconds to realize what day of the week it was, thinking that I would be late for work I quickly realized that this was Saturday. Feeling my negligee against my hairless body reinforced the fact that this was indeed my day to be Karen.

I climbed out of bed as ladylike as possible trying immediately to get mentally prepared for the day. As I removed my nightie I carefully folded it and put it away until later that night. It was odd, I thought, that I was so much fussier in handling my female clothes than I was my male things. After showering, I dried myself off and then sprayed myself with a very feminine deodorant and a few quick sprays of my favorite perfume in all the appropriate places.

Walking over to my dresser, I removed and pulled into place my favorite pair of black lace panties followed by my girdle that had some extra hip padding sewn in to enlarge my typical male hips. As I pulled my black nylons up my legs, I again had a shivering throughout my body that would occur so many times during my dressing session. Hooking up the tops of my nylons, I thought of the many times as a hockey player I had in a similar fashion hooked my hockey socks to my rather hefty garter belt that was part of my hockey gear. I wonder what the boys on my team would do if they could see me now? Looking down at my nylon covered legs and seeing my polished toe nails through my sheer stockings removed any further trace of my sports career.

I proceeded to don the rest of my lingerie including my bra complete with breast inserts that felt so real. My waist cincher that pulled my waist in tightly. A beautiful black teddy and a black half slip that fell to just above the knees. Looking in the mirror I saw a very shapely, feminine figure.

It was at this time that I always put on my high heels for three reasons: 1) since I would be spending all day walking it was imperative I get used to them; 2) I simply loved wearing them; and 3) this is when I finally start to feel like a woman instead of a man in a dress.

Standing in front of my large collection of shoes I chose a comfortable pair of black three-inch heels. I still never quite get used to the feel of slipping my nylon covered feet into high heels. The shoes I chose have open toes allowing my toes to peek through in such a feminine way.

Slipping on a plain, but pretty, black blouse and then a tight black skirt that barely covered my knees, I was ready to apply my makeup, something I have become rather adept at. When that job was completed I put on my wig.

As I looked in the full-length mirror (an absolute necessity for every crossdresser) I couldn't help but be turned-on by the obviously well dressed, attractive woman that stared back. I wasn't sure if I was excited about looking at an attractive woman or being one.

Being completely dressed, save for my accessories, I looked at myself one more time and decided that since I wasn't going to a funeral I was wearing a little too much black. I added a pair of red dangling earrings, a red necklace, a wide red belt and then changed to a pair of red heels which seemed to do the job of spicing up my look. Since it had warmed up considerably since my last excursion, I didn't need a coat. I grabbed a matching red purse and checked to see if I had everything I needed.

As I heard my apartment door click shut behind me, I knew that I was on my way. My heart pounded as I walked down the hall toward the elevator. Even though I have done this many times I still get very excited and nervous about what lay ahead. I could feel the tightness of my bra, my nyloned legs rubbing together, my skirt that was so tight I could only take short ladylike steps and the feel of walking in high heels is something only a crossdresser could understand.

I pushed the elevator button, my artificial long red nail serving as a further reminder of the lifestyle I was pursuing on a more regular basis. When the door opened, I entered an empty car. One thing I liked about these elevators were the mirrored sides that once again let me examine my very unmasculine look. I loved it!! On my trip down a few people got off and on without ever suspecting that the sweet smelling lady was anything other than a sweet smelling lady.

Having these long nails made simple tasks a little harder. I reached into my purse and pulled out my keys. I try to present a feminine image at everything I do, so it now comes as second nature to sit first and swing my legs in last keeping my knees together. As I head out of the parking garage, I wave to a neighbor who is aware of my little hobby and even gives me a real female's perspective on how I look.

Heading toward the new mall, I anxiously await the many thrills I will encounter on my day as Karen. The feeling I get looking down at legs that are so dark because of the nylons is incredible. Due to the tightness and length of my skirt it rides up exposing quite a bit of the aforementioned legs. Stopping at a traffic light, I can't help but notice that a man beside me in a van is having a long hard look at those very same legs. If he only knew...

The day ahead of me could only bring more such delights that are unique only to women!

EF

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Reflections on Transformations One Year Later

Alison Laing

Mariette Pathy Allen's photo-essay *TRANSFORMATIONS—Crossdressers and Those Who Love Them* hit the street just over a year ago in January 1990. It was presented for the first time in public at the opening exhibition of Allen's photographs at the *Simon Lowinsky Gallery* in lower Manhattan. The reception included other photographers, artists and art dilettantes, local press and a number of crossdressers. The official release occurred at the International Center for Photography bookstore in New York.

The general response of those who saw the book was one of enthusiastic appreciation. This was especially true of those who were in the crossdressing community. Many saw this book as a first; an artistic documentary presenting crossdressing in a professional manner, in a quality format, and all in good taste.

Allen, in her efforts to promote her book, has taken it "on the road" with close to a dozen television appearances. She has appeared with local crossdressers in major cities from Philadelphia to San Francisco, Boston to Atlanta, and has done a number of radio interviews, too. She has presented the photographs in slide shows at various settings including many of the conventions and weekends of the transgendered community. In doing all this, Allen has not just been promoting her book, but she has been presenting our community in a good light to the public.

The book is a large format (9x12 inches), hard cover, high quality photographic essay, presenting over a hundred photos (16 full-page, color photos and 100 B&W) of transvestites, transgenderists, transsexuals, and their families and loved ones. More than just photographs, the book also includes 33 first-person biographical sketches edited by Allen from direct interviews with her subjects. She makes no attempt to analyze or pass judgement on these commentaries. However, Allen does provide an interesting insight into her own feelings about this subject in her introduction. She tells how she got started and why she's continued to study and photograph members of this community. Allen exhibits a keen sensitivity to the complex issues that arise in the lives of these crossdressers and their families.

Perhaps the most striking aspect of this book, beyond the photographs and the subject itself, is the amazing diversity of personalities and lifestyles represented. There's Felicity at age 79 and several who are in their early twenties. There are people of color with Asian, African and Latin American ethnic backgrounds. There are doctors, lawyers, engineers, and scientists, but also laborers, musicians, educators, farmers and even the unemployed. While the book is heavy on the mainstream crossdresser, Allen has sought out the loners, the deeply "closeted," as well as the full-time transgendered and transsexual person.

The fact that Allen has included the biographical data and photos of many of the "movers & shakers" in this community, makes this book a document of potential historical significance. To name only a few of these notables, there is Ariadne Kane (Outreach Institute), Sheila Kirk (TransPitt), Naomi Owen (Chi Chapter Tri-Ess), Merissa Lynn (IFGE) and Yvonne Cook (IFGE). These and the others have their interesting stories to share. And, while there is only one photo of the legendary Virginia Prince, Allen wisely gives her the "last word;" the book's epilogue was written by Prince.

Transformations has been a valuable book to many of us in unexpected ways. Several people

have used it as an aid in "coming out." Others tell of using it to educate spouses and friends. In one case, it may have been pivotal in saving a marriage. It can also be a very subtle means of testing a friend to see how they might react without actually coming out to them.

A reviewer usually has to find something to criticize, so I will give you my only peeve. I frequently refer to my copy of the book to re-read someone's story or to show someone else a photograph of a person we may be discussing. I have difficulty in doing so as there is no index. I have made my own, but then the lack of page numbers still makes references difficult. But I am getting to know the book by heart.

Transformations is available by order at any book store that handles E.F.Dutton publications (ISBN: 0-525-24820-X). This includes Bretano's and Walden Books. It can also be ordered through the Outreach Institute and IFGE at $24.95 plus $3.00 postage and handling (US only). See the Resources Section for addresses.

A portfolio of eleven 20" x 24", dye-transfer prints of images from the book is available through the *Simon Lowinsky Gallery* in Manhattan. Call for current pricing. ***EF***

All Photos by Mariette Pathy Allen

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My First Job As A Woman

Roberta Angela Dee

My first job as a woman was for a golf cart company on Long Island, which has since gone out of business. I was about 28 years old at the time and had no employment history as a woman. So the job with this company was a very important step. It became the basis for all my future employment.

My resume reflected a high school diploma. It showed that I had held a clerical position at a small retail store. It also showed I held the position of Administrative Assistant for a small out of state company. When I interviewed I explained that I needed a job right away. I had just moved to town and was staying with a friend.

I was interviewed for the position of machine operator at a salary of a little more than minimum wage. Neither the position, nor the salary was of much importance to me. My main concern was to set up credentials as a woman. I also wanted to get and maintain a credit history and to live as a woman on a full time basis.

The decision to cross live

What prompted this drastic decision? My decision to live as a woman grew out of several factors. The first was simply the depression that occurred with my attempts to live as a man. I had done everything I could to avoid looking or acting like a man. Yet, because I continued dressing in male or androgynous clothing, most people assumed me to be gay. That, too, was depressing because I never considered myself to be gay.

A second factor was that I had reached a career position as a male that created the need for me to socialize with my male co-workers. It was also expected that I would marry soon. Marriage was not the direction I wanted to pursue.

The third factor involved the ending of my relationship two years earlier. My first lover had left me very hurt emotionally. I had reached a point where I was comfortable enough to consider dating again. This time however, I wanted recognition as a woman in my own right, before anything started. Whatever my motivation my strategy worked. The interviewer hired me and gave me a starting date.

I had only been on hormones about three months and was less than a AA cup in development. I had been out on enough dates to know I could 'pass' in public. But, passing in public was a whole lot different from passing for a full 8½ hours while intimately working with people, day after day, week after week.

I had no idea what kinds of questions my co-workers would ask, nor whether anyone would actually 'read' me. And if they did read me, would they be discreet about it? I was in new territory.

The first day

Naturally any 6-foot tall woman is going to attract attention. And as nervous as I was that first day, I had to somehow discriminate between those who were looking at me because of my height and those who might have suspected that I was cross-dressed.

Since there was no way to do this with absolute certainty, I decided to assume that anyone who stared at me for too long did so because of my height. This was no time for any lack of confidence. I needed to prepare myself for anyone who would challenge my gender. I needed to defend myself as any woman would defend herself. Then just hope for the best.

The foreman was an English gentleman in his late fifties. After a remark or two about my height he was both polite and flirtatious. Although his compliments flattered me I concentrated on

learning my responsibilities on this humongous machine designed to cut and stamp holes in 3-inch diameter steel pipes.

As I leaned over to push the pipe through the little hole for stamping and cutting, I noticed the foreman was trying to sneak a peek down my blouse. It did much to increase my level of confidence, but it would have been nice if I had a bit more for him to see.

A male quality control inspector came by every half hour to check on my work. His name was Ron and he was always very nice. He told me that the guys had commented on my height. I wanted to ask whether they had commented on anything else. I didn't because I couldn't afford to do or say anything that might cause anyone to be the least bit curious or suspicious.

That afternoon I took my first half-hour lunch with the other ladies. Most of them were housewives and mothers. They talked about their husbands and their children. They talked about the job and how short-sighted they thought the foreman had been in several areas.

I said as little as possible. They accepted my shyness as I was the new girl on the block. Later however they started to ask questions about my personal life. Did I have a boyfriend? Did I have a problem getting dates because of my height? How old was I? Just how tall? How much did I weigh? Did I have any children? Could I have children?

I answered the question about my fertility by telling them that although I had never been pregnant, I hoped to have children someday. That answer seemed to satisfy them. I was afraid they would start asking me questions about female anatomy or on having a period. And I didn't want to get into areas that might cause them to ask too many more questions.

I did however pay very careful attention to their responses. One of the ladies paid a lot of attention to my hands. Although I had neatly manicured nails and slender fingers, my hands were larger and still more masculine than those of the average woman. Alone it wasn't enough to give me away. But it could easily lead her to examine other aspects of my anatomy. If she put it all together it might be enough to generate doubt.

It was a relief when lunch ended. These women might not have been well-read or well-educated but they could distinguish a woman from a man. If I could successfully pass their inspection, I could feel a great deal more confident.

After lunch several of the women exchanged information. They excluded me from this exchange of gossip and it made me uneasy, but I continued to work as if nothing was wrong.

Then I felt a need to use the bathroom. Sensitive to their suspicions I held back from using the facility as long as I could. Nature called me to my moment of truth and I asked the foreman for permission to leave.

As I left the department one of the ladies followed me. She watched as I entered the ladies room but would not enter after me. Her unwillingness to follow me made me even more nervous. I was afraid that when I exited from the lady's room there would be a police officer to arrest me. Fortunately that did not happen and I returned to the department without incidence.

I asked the lady who worked next to me for details as to what was going on. She told me that some of the women were wondering about my height and if I had a hormonal problem. Sometimes when a woman looks suspiciously masculine, other women present their suspicions by using the phrase "hormonal problems."

"That happens all the time," I replied. "It's because of my height and the size of my hands and feet. I do have a slight hormonal problem, but I'm certainly not a freak. And I'm not a man if that's what really worries them." I then went over to ask the foreman to take a look at my machine. I did this intentionally to give my co-worker time to convey my explanation to the other women.

The gossiping quickly came to a halt. My strategy was once again successful. They accepted my explanation. Still I refrained from using the bathroom for the rest of the day.

Women's rules & regulations

It was important for the women to come to a conclusion about my gender because women live under a different social structure than men. Women have rules that exist for no other reason than women compete with other.

This competitive game does not take an aggressive form, as it does with men. It is more cunning, which is why women are often called 'catty.' The players are women. They can only be women. Even if a man understood the rules well enough his successes or losses would not be measured the same way they are measured for a genetic female.

Feminine behavior is the accumulation of having lived for many years as a female—of actually being female. All of the subtleties cannot

be mastered overnight.

Women are well-tuned to body language. This is why they can tell if a woman is gay or straight or sooner and faster than any man.

My confrontation with real women on my first day at work could have been a disaster had I underestimated their abilities. I won because I knew I had to prove myself slowly and patiently—a little at a time.

CONCLUSION

It is possible (even probable) that some of these women believed I was cross-dressed during my six months of employment withthe golf cart company. It doesn't really matter now. I accomplished everything I set out to accomplish: a valid reference on my resume, a credit history and a learning experience few people ever undergo.

I literally learned to be a woman through observation, through trial and error, and through an open mind, a willingness to listen, to respect and to understand that this was their domain. I was only an apprentice, a rookie.

I've tried in the course of writing this short story to share something of value with everyone who cross-dresses, especially cross-dressers who venture beyond the 'closet' and into the public.

Patience is a virtue. Never expect to become too much too soon. The result can only be that you make a fool out of yourself. Remember that every woman looks at every other woman as a competitor in the struggle to find or keep a man (or even another woman). Anyone who enters that arena is going to be checked out thoroughly. My advice is simply not to underestimate the competition.

Stay sweet. And good luck. ***EF***

If you have some relevant thoughts you'd like to share, Roberta can be contacted through this magazine or directly by writing to:

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TRANSVESTISM A RE-EXAMINATION

Vern Bullough, Ph.D.

Transvestism was first described, clinically, by Magnus Hirschfeld in Germany (1910). It should be noted that pre-WW II Germany was quite liberal about human sexuality. It was Hirschfeld who coined the term to describe the behavior he observed in 16 men and one woman. His research in this area of behavior led to a new category of sexual behavior. His interest was peaked by the fact that not all the crossdressers were homosexual. He recognized the majority were heterosexual and this intrigued him.

It was Havelock Ellis in 1936 who tried to introduce the term "Eonism" after the Chevalier D'Eon, one of history's most famous crossdressers. The term never really caught on, however. Ellis initially described transvestism as an "aesthetic inversion" but dropped that definition later because of the suggestion of homosexuality. [An early, clinical, definition of homosexuality was "sexual inversion."]

Other researchers, mostly psychoanalysts, took an interest in transvestism, although Sigmund Freud paid little attention to it. Karl Abraham described a man who day-dreamed he was changed into a woman although the man did not crossdress. Today, we might recognize this person as a transsexual. However, Abraham attributed the man's problems [erroneously] to homosexual impulses.

This view was shared by many other analysts, especially Wilhelm Stekel who wrote many books on the subject. Stekel argued that transvestites were latent homosexuals. Stekel also believed that transvestites suffered from an ugliness-complex and used clothing as a flight of fantasy into the other sex. It is probably Stekel's influence that led to the association of eroticism with crossdressing and, ultimately, to the inclusion of Transvestic Fetishism in the Diagnostic and Statistics Manual, Third Edition, Revised (DSM III-R). Transvestic Fetishism is defined as behavior existing over a period of six months or more, where the person experiences intense and recurrent sexually arousing fantasies and sexual urges tied to crossdressing and has either acted upon these urges or is distressed by them.

Crossdressing and impersonation of the opposite sex occurs in every cultural and historical study of sexual behavior. One's sexual organs have never been a universal, definitive, nor essential insignia of gender. In some societies, gender is an achieved characteristic not one that is automatically ascribed to a person and has more to do with tasks performed and costume than anatomy. Historically and culturally, there is a wide variation of feminine and masculine behavior. The only invariants being childbearing and nursing.

While crossdressing plays a role in many pre-Christian religions, it is Christianity that emphasizes the importance of putting men and women into different categories and setting appropriate gender behavior for each. Theoretically, the basis for these rigid definition is Deuteronomy 22:5 which says, "A woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment, for all that do so are an abomination unto the Lord thy God." [It is pretty much accepted now that these proscriptions were not specifically directed at crossdressing but at keeping women out of the temple and men out of the women's quarters. The sense of the passage was changed sometime in the homophobic-sixteenth century when the King James version of the Bible was created.] While the proscription has been strongly enforced against men, it has almost never been enforced against women. In fact, women have always been encouraged to become more masculine. This is, in part, because women were regarded as biologically, intellectually and spiritually inferior to men. [The ancient Greeks believed that women were "inverted"—there's that term again—men. As such, however, they were treated with the same respect as "normal" men. It was with the growing certainty that women were, in fact, a completely different sex, that the denigration of women reached its peak.]

Women who acted like men were much admired within the early Christian church. There are more than 30 female saints who, while they were alive, were thought to be men. The fact that they "passed" so successfully is one of the major reason they were made saints. Conversely, there are no male saints who lived as women. And, of course, western history is peppered with accounts of women who passed

continued on page 30

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Paradise In The Poconos

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Wendi Seabreeze . . . from page 3

hike. When she opened the door to the apartment, that's when the spit hit the fan because Karen was already home and saw Janet coming in through the front door.

At first, Karen though that Rod had another girl coming over while she was away, but after a long stare she saw that this sexy feminine creature was actually her husband. And unfortunately for Rod, Janet was aware she was busted, so she simply let him have his own consciousness back. So, there he was dressed up as Janet in his wife's clothes, standing right in front of Karen in their living room. Rod was shocked like he always was when the personality shift had been so swift. For a few minutes he was disoriented so didn't really hear Karen screaming at him.

"My God Rod! What in the hell are you doing in my clothes? You damn sissy you! Why didn't you tell me you were a transvestite before we got married? Oh hell, I'm married to a California queer! My husband is a faggot!" She yelled over and over again before Rod was able to reply.

"Listen, Karen. I'm really not a normal transvestite or anything like that. I just have these other people in me who are girls. I think—I think I have multiple personalities." Rod desperately tried to explain.

Karen looked Rod over in the purple sexy outfit then said, "so you're trying to tell me you're like that actress Sally Field who played Sybil in that movie? That's a lousy excuse for being a sissy. I must admit you are beautiful as a woman, but you're my husband! Oh God, Rod, what am I gonna do about you?"

"Please, honey, believe me, I knew what time you were going to be home. Do you think I would purposely want to get caught wearing your clothes and makeup?"

"I don't know what to think anymore!" Karen replied with tears in her eyes.

Needless to say, Karen gave Rod a few chances to clean up his act (because of her love for him) and stop dressing as a girl. But there were many times over the next year when she caught Janet in her clothes acting sexy, Vicky in a white robe meditating and Valerie with their child's toys. There aren't many who could cope with the different personalities of Rod and the confusion and despair he exhibited and that Karen experienced. So they finally divorced. Karen got custody of the baby and didn't ask for child support or alimony, because she wanted Rod out of her life forever. Besides behind Rod's back Karen was already making love to another man that would become the stepfather of their child.

Rod returned to California and was able to hold down a job from time to time. Janet continued to be a prostitute and had actually paid for Vicky's college education. As strange as this may sound, it is true. Vicky (the intelligent witch) was able to have 50% of Rod's life and used Janet and her 'promiscuous trade' to pay for books and tuition into a city college. She was enrolled as "Vicky Lynn" and majored in several courses.

Between all the personality changes and their own time, this body "I" now live in, didn't get more than four hours of sleep each night. Rod worked a nightshift job because he never had any time of his own during the day. He became the household supporter and never knew the name Vicky, or that she was going to college. Of course Janet remained a whore, and Valerie would become younger and younger, playing with dolls and her coloring books. Rod had finally succumbed to the fact that there were other people within himself, so he wasn't bothered by the women's clothing, shoes, makeup and other feminine things that were around his apartment. They became commonplace and he more or less just left them alone.

Rod's life was all work and hardly no play. Until one day he met a young woman named Laurie who became his girlfriend. After a few months into their relationship, she walked in on Janet. Laurie was fascinated by Janet so they too became good friends. They became playmates and would help each other with their hair and get all fancied-up then go out to nightclubs. All to the unknowingness of Rod.

Yes! Laurie was still Rod's girlfriend, but because she had lesbian tendencies, she became more attracted to Rod in his Janet character, and they would indulge in the finer senses of feminine ardent pleasure.

These girlish pleasures and experiences can only be described in greater detail... in the next issue!

Come romp with us! ***EF***

Resources

Resource listings are free. If you'd like your group or business listed. please let us know. This list is accurate at the time of publication. Please send an SSAE when writing to these folks.

• National Organizations •

International Foundation for Gender Education (IFGE), Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778, Publishes "TV/TS Tapestry". Reprints and books on TV/TS subjects, other info. 617-899-2212.

Outreach Institute, Box 368, Kenmore Station, Boston, MA 02215. General TV/TS information for personal and professional use. Hard to find books.

Renaissance Education Association, Inc., Box 552, King of Prussia, PA 19406, 215-630-1437, $12 membership fee includes monthly newsletter. Background Papers on TV/TS issues for personal and professional use. Speakers Bureau. Inquire about new chapters.

Society for the Second Self (SSS), Box 194, Tulare, CA 93275. Organization for Hetero-TVs ***only***. Publishes "Femme Mirror." See chapters listed below.

•Organizations by State•

City, Name, Address, Zipcode

Alaska

Anchorage, Berdache Society, Box 200324, 99520

Arizona

Tempe, Alpha-Zeta SSS(c), Box 24459, 85285

Scottsdale, A Rose(o), Box 4351, 85261

California

Anaheim, PPOC(o), Box 9091, 92812

Duarte, CHIC(c), Box 562, 91010

Los Angeles, Lambda Alpha SSS(c), Box 36091, 90036

Sacramento, Sacramento Gender Assoc(o), Box 417701, 95841

San Diego, Neutral Corner(o), Box 12581, 92112

San Francisco, ETVC(o), Box 6486, 94101

San Jose, Rainbow Gender Association(o), Box 700730, 95170

Santa Monica, Androgyny, 513 Wilshire Rd, Suite 245, 90401

Tulare, Tri Chi SSS(c), Box 194, 93275

Woodland Hills, Valley Girls(o), Box 944, 91365

Connecticut

Farmington, Connecticut Outreach Society(o), Box 163, 06034

Colorado

Denver, Gender Identity Center, 3715 West 32nd Ave, 80211

Florida

Hollywood, Serenity(o), Box 307, 33022

St. Petersburg, Southern Belles (c), Box 7311, 33734

Winter Park, Phi Epsilon Mu SSS (c), Box 3261, 32790

Georgia

Atlanta, Sigma Epsilon SSS(c), Box 250481, 30325

Decatur, Montgomery Institute (TS), Box 33311, 30033

Hawaii

Honolulu, Hawaii TG Outreach(o), 777 Kapiolani Blvd., Ste 3114, 96813

Illinois

Chicago, Chicago Gender Society(o), Box 578005, 60657

Washington, Central Illinois Gender Assoc.(o), Box 126, 61517

Wood Dale, Chi Chapter SSS(c), Box 40, 60191

Indiana

Indianapolis, IXE(o), Box 20710, 46220

Kansas

Overland Park, Crossdressers & Friends, Box 4092, 66204

Louisiana

New Orleans, Tri Delta Chi SSS(c), Box 870213, 70187

Maine

Portland, TransSupport, Box 17622, 04101

Massachusetts

Springfield, The Twenty Club(TS), Box 80690, Forrest Pk Sta, 01138

Woburn, Tiffany Club(o), Box 2283, 01888

Michigan

Grand Rapids, W. Michigan I.M.E.(o), Box 1153, 49501

Royal Oak, Crossroads(o), Box 1245, 48068

Minnesota

Minneapolis, CLCC(o), Box 16265, 55416

St. Paul, MFGE(o), Box 17945, 55117

Mississippi

Jackson, Beta Chi SSS, Box 31253, 39206

Missouri

St. Louis, St. Louis Gender Foundation, Box 9433, 63117

Nebraska

Bellevue, River City(o) ,Box 1305,68005

Omaha, RCR(c), Box 24060, 68124

New Mexico

Santa Fe, Fiesta SSS(c), DeVargas Center, Suite G-451, 87501

New Jersey

Brick, MOCD,Renaissance Affiliate, Box 1326, 08723

Mays Landing, Renaissance Chapter (o), Box 189, 08330

New York

Albany,TGIC(o), Box 13604, 12212

Brooklyn, Girl's Night Out (o), Box 369, 11235

Camillus, EON(o), Box 6293, 13031

Mountainville, Chi Delta Mu SSS(c), Box 93, 10953

New York City, The Gathering, Box 29, 10021-0030

Resources

Resource listings are free. If you'd like your group or business listed, please let us know. This list is accurate at the time of publication. Please send an SSAE when writing to these folks.

Ozone Park, LIFE (c), Box 121, 11416
Rochester, CD-Network, Box 92055, 14692
Tillson, Transgender Network(o), Box 177, 12486-0177

Ohio

Cincinnati, Cross-Port(o), Box 12701, 45212
Elyria, Alpha-Omega SSS(c), Box 954, 44036
Parma, Paradise Club(o), Box 29564, 44129
Reynoldsburg, Crystal Club, Box 287, 43068

Oregon

Portland, NW Gender Alliance(o), Box 4928, 97208.
Salem, Capitol City, Box 3312, 97302

Pennsylvania

Harrisburg/York, Renaissance LSV Box 2122, 17105
Phila., TS(only) Support Group, Box 15836, 19103
Phila., Renaissance Chapter (o), Box AD, Bensalem, 19020
Pittsburgh, TransPitt(o), Box 3214, 15230
York, Renaissance Chapter (o), Box 7412, 17404

Texas

Alief, Tau Chi Tri SSS(c), Box 1105, 77411
Arlington, Delta Omega SSS(c), Box 1021, 76004
Austin, Heart of Texas (o), Box 402, 78767
Houston, Gulf Coast TV Chapter(o), Box 90335, 77090
San Antonio, B&P Society(o), Box 169652, 78280

Utah

Salt Lake City, Alpha Rho Provesta SSS, Box 26711, 84126

Virginia

Arlington, DCEA(o), Box 16036, 22215

West Virginia

Huntington, Trans-WV, Box 2322, WV 25724

Washington

Portland, NW Gender Alliance(o), Box 4928, 97208
Seattle, Emerald City(o), Box 31318, 98103

•Canadian•

British Columbia, Cornbury Society(c), Box 3745, Vancouver, V6B-3Z1

Owen Sound, Monarch Social Club (o), Box 682, Ontario, N4K 5P1

Toronto, Transition Support (TS), 1002 Woodbine, Ontario, M4C-4C1

Toronto, Toronto Crossdressers' Club Inc., 429C Dundas St. East, M5A-2A9

•Information Services•

CT, *Manchester*, Gender Identity Clinic of New England, TS info, 68 Adelaide Rd., 06040

MA, *N. Dartmouth*, Gender Information Services, Information for transsexuals, Box 9238, 02747

Quebec, *Hamilton*, FACT(TS), Box 291, Station "A", Ontario, L8N-3C8

•Boutiques & Businesses•

CA, *Glendale*, NS Products (Breast Forms), Box 6678-L, 91205

CA, *Laguna Niguel*, Fashion 2000 (makeup & fashion consultants), Box 6502, 92607

CA, *Mt. View*, B&R Creations (Corsetry), Box 4201-L, 94040

CA, *San Diego*, Jo Lynn White Image Consultant, 619-492-8816

CA, *Sherman Oaks*, Lydia's TV Fashions, 13837 Ventura Blvd., Suite 2, 91423, 818-995-7195.

CA, *Tustin*, Versatile Fashions, Box 1051, 92681

CT, *Greenwich & New Haven areas*, Jane Doyle Electrology, 203-869-2323 or 203-734-5408

FL, *Ft. Lauderdale*, Fantasies In Lace, 3608 W. Broward Blvd., 305-581-2366

MA, *Waltham*, Vernon's Specialities, 386 Moody St., 02254, 617-894-1744

NY, *NYC*, Mardi Gras Boutique, 400 W. 14th St. at 8th Ave., 212-947-7773

PA, *Jenkintown*, Laine Alexander Image Consultant, 215-635-8858

Canada, *Toronto*, Walk on the Wildside, TV Boutique, 416-864-0420

Canada, *Owen Sound*, FantasyLand, TV Boutique, 274 8th St. E., Box 682, Ontario, N4K-5R4

•Recurring Events•

Be All You Can Be Weekend, put on by Paradise Club, Crossroads, Trans-Pitt and Chi Chapter of SSS in June

Fantasia Fair, 10 days, once a year in October, in Provincetown, MA. Outreach Institute, Box 368, Kenmore Station, Boston, MA., 02215.

IFGE Convention, once a year in April, '92 in San Antonio, '93 in Philadelphia

On The Scene Nite, 2nd. Saturday each month at the Queen Mary, Studio City, Calif. (818) 506-5619.

Paradise in the Poconos, 4days/3nights, twice a year, May and September, in the Pa. Poconos. Contact CDS.

Tiffany Provincetown Outings, twice a year in Oct & June.

Monarch Social Club, Mardi Gras Ontario, last full weekend in August.

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JoAnn Roberts, from pg. 9

my most recent experience.

I ordered four items; a bodystocking, a low back body briefer and two dresses on January 7. The first hint at the quality of service came while I was ordering on the phone; they have a toll free 800 number. The Hanover catalogs offer Federal Express shipping to expedite orders, but before I could ask for it, I was cut off. Hmmm. The total order came to about $200.

The first item to arrive, a sexy black dress with a sheer bodice, came a week later. I tried it on immediately and was extremely disappointed in the fit. The sheer bodice was loose through the shoulders and kept falling open in the back, while the bust was too tight. I checked the size tag—yep, it was a 14. I let my daughter try it on, she's a size 12, and it didn't fit her either. I sent it back.

The second item, a sheer, tulle bodystocking arrived a few days after the first dress. It was made well with one tiny, but important, flaw; there was no opening in the crotch. I had assumed there would be. I can't imagine any woman, let alone a TV, wearing one of these for any length of time under their clothes. You have to strip completely to use the bathroom.

Next to arrive, now two weeks since order day, was the low back, strapless body briefer. I ordered this to wear with an off-the-shoulder clingy knit dress I'd bought in a local store. The briefer was made by Smoothie, a well known name in ladies foundations. But, once again, I was disappointed. The foundation did not fit properly, and instead of smoothing out my body shape, it made it lumpier. Back it went too.

It is now over one month since I placed my order and I'm still waiting for the "killer" dress with the heart-shaped cutout neckline. I have no allusions about it. Likely as not, it won't fit.

This is typical of my experience with this company. My previous order had been a sequined tank dress. It was made so poorly that the sequins at the hem shredded my pantyhose. It went back.

The only good thing about this is the Hanover group has an unconditional return policy. Send anything back for any reason at any time, and they refund your money. However, the postal service, UPS and Federal Express are the real winners in the exchange. As pretty as the catalog appears, don't waste your time and money. ***EF***

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Vern Bullough, from page 23

themselves off successfully as soldiers, sailors, businessmen, politicians, physicians and many other "male" pursuits.

What is evident is that the box created for women by the Biblical injunction has never completely confined women and in our modern society is even less confining than ever before.

What is now most interesting to observe from a historical perspective is that male crossdressing in the past never existed on the same scale as female crossdressing. Transgender men are almost nonexistent in western society before 1800. This does not include the crossdressing associated with the early theater. But, that too, was frowned upon by many. Puritan critic, William Pryne, writing in the seventeenth century held that a man "doing: what a woman does leads to "being" what a woman is. He was convinced that "locked away" within each man was a woman only waiting for the appropriate attire to announce and show herself. This loss of masculinity underscores the status loss of crossdressing but also hints at the fear that men are not all they are cracked up to be. For example, emerging groups of homosexual men in the eighteenth century formed "molly" clubs and proclaimed their sexuality by crossdressing as women. Crossdressing or Drag is still associated with homosexuality today.

During the nineteenth century, Romanticism discarded intellectual rationality for passion and emotion. In spite of the Victorian standards of public modesty, Romanticism was pro-sex and encouraged the violation of social norms. What was taking place was an appreciation of female qualities, a raising of woman's place to a higher value, an "effeminism" if you will.

The counter-reaction to this growing effeminism was a rigorous athleticism, which we still see today. This athleticism was embodied in the United States by Theodore Roosevelt and the result was a whole series of institutions devoted to develop and encourage masculinity, e.g. the Boy Scouts and the YMCA. What was happening, then, was the Romanticists, who adored the feminine qualities of women, were being driven underground, giving expression to their needs by crossdressing. This phenomena becomes more and more evident in the last part of the nineteenth century and the first part of the twentieth. By then, Hirschfeld had recognized and classified it as transvestism. In his scheme of human sexuality, transvestites were gender-intermediates as homosexuals were sexual-intermediates.

Just how pervasive crossdressing was at this time cannot be known since only a few ever came to the attention of analysts. There is evidence, however, from biographies, autobiographies, fiction and press coverage. Interestingly enough, female crossdressers were dealt with much more evenhandedly in the newspapers than discovered male crossdressers. The numbers of male crossdressers seems to increase steadily during the twentieth century and even more rapidly post WW II.

Because all the evidence points toward an increase in transvestism a social interaction perspective might be helpful in understanding what is taking place. Since society doesn't seem overly concerned about crossdressing for women, the significance of the act is determined by the woman herself. This in not the case for male crossdressers. The significance of transvestism is defined not only by the crossdresser, but also by what society, and in a large part, the helping professionals make of it. Another factor in the current social construct of transvestism is the rapidly growing number of peer support groups.

In summary, there are a great variety of historical, cultural and social factors that merge into the phenomenon called transvestism. The urge to explore the condition of the other sex is almost universal. Western culture has tried to restrict the boundaries of appropriate masculine and feminine behavior by separating the men and women into separate sex and gender boxes. Men who find these boxes overly confining turn to an escape into women's roles for relief. The problem may not be a matter of individual pathology as suggested by the DSM-IIIR, but a sign of social pathology. Society needs new ways to allow those who do not fit neatly into the boxes to explore the alternatives. If we can remove the stigma from homosexuality that earlier versions of the DSM piled upon it, then we ought to be able to rethink just how much transvestism, today, is a social construction designed to meet a real need in society. We long ago removed the stigma from women who crossdress, and it is a society's double-standard, more than anything else, that prevents us from reexamining the male transvestite in the same way.

Note: Dr. Bullough is the Dean, Faculty of Natural & Social Sciences at the State University College of NY at Buffalo. This article was abstracted from a previously published paper with the author's permission. ***EF***

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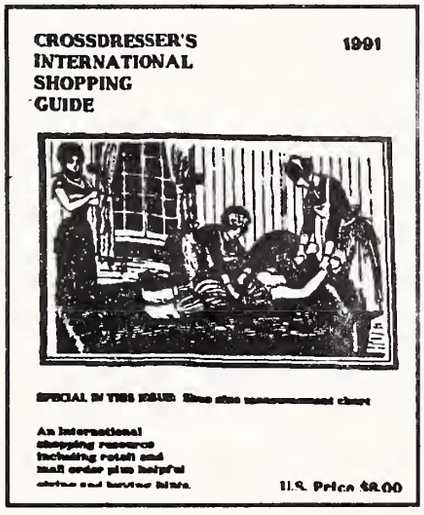

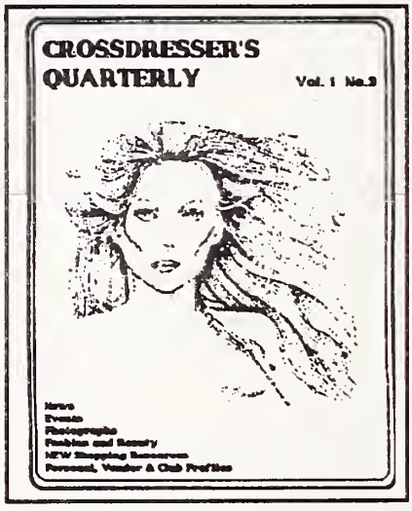

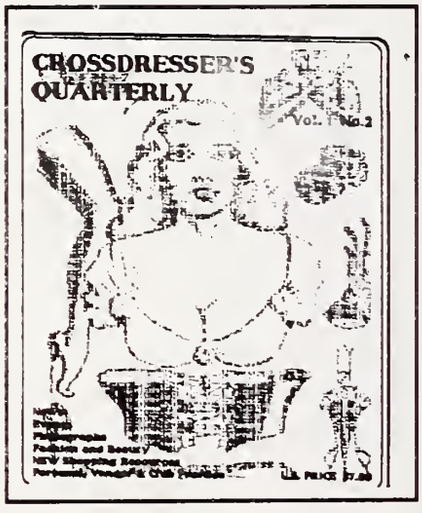

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